



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Michael S Lancaster, M.D. and
Leza Wainwright, Directors

September 11, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: LME Directors

FROM: Leza Wainwright 

SUBJECT: Transition of Individuals from Developmental Centers Using State Dollars

S.L. 2008, House Bill 2436, section 10.15(t) requires the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services to assist local management entities in using up to five percent (5%) of allocated developmental disability funding to help successfully transition individuals from the state operated developmental centers. This requirement is a component of broader efforts to promote and support transitions to the community including reserving capacity in the CAP-MR/DD waiver for individuals leaving the centers, the Money Follows the Person (MFP) project, the ICF-MR bed transfer project, and the implementation of the START model of crisis services to individuals with developmental disabilities and behavioral healthcare needs.

Although there are a variety of methodologies that may be used to effectively transition individuals to the community from the developmental centers, the use of some state dollars in a flexible, non-UCR funding approach, in combination with waiver funding will often provide transition resources, such as the training of provider staff prior to discharge, as well as additional staffing for those individuals with significant behavioral or medical needs. LMEs not funded through the Single Stream approach may request transfer of up to five percent (5%) of their state DD dollars to non-UCR to follow this approach. Requests should be sent to the attention of Kristi Hickman on the Budget and Finance Team.

This model of transitioning consumers requires ongoing collaboration between staff of the developmental centers, community providers, the individual and their family and the LME. Each of these entities has a significant role in successful community transitions. Implementation Update #43 provided information regarding LME functions related to transitioning individuals from state operated developmental centers, noting that each LME receives a list of those individuals whose guardians have expressed an interest in community living. This continues to be a starting point for discussions.

The developmental centers have expertise and knowledge regarding the support needs of consumers identified for transition. Staff's relationships with the individual and the family/guardian play a critical role in assuring all participants understand the strengths and needs of the individual. In addition, they have expertise and experience to provide training and support of community provider staff to ensure adequate preparation prior to discharge.



LMEs are encouraged to consider partnering with one or two community providers who have demonstrated expertise in working with individuals with greater challenges to successful community living, such as behavioral issues or special medical needs. As an example, one LME worked in collaboration with a single provider to successfully transition three individuals who had previously been classified as "hard to place" from a developmental center into the community. The LME provided \$500,000 in state funds as non-UCR monies on a one-time basis to augment CAP-MR/DD waiver funding. Services developed with these state dollars included:

- Advocacy, including parent to parent support,
- Self Determination Intermediary to assist in identification of support needs and a funding mechanism through state dollars to address those needs,
- Community Coaches and Community connectors to connect the individual to needed services and supports.

Parent to parent support was a significant factor in the success of these transitions and included connecting the parent/guardian of an individual in transition to another parent with similar experiences. State funds also supported extra staffing early in the transition process, including overnight awake staff for which waiver funding was not available.

In addition to the legislative requirement that DMH/DD/SAS assist LMEs in using developmental disability funding to help transition individuals from the developmental centers to the community, the legislation further requires reporting of progress towards such transitions. Attached is a reporting form to be completed by each LME on a quarterly basis. The reporting time frames for transition activities are as follows:

- 9/1/08-12/31/08: report due 1/15/09
- 1/1/09-3/31/09: report due 4/15/09
- 4/1/09-6/30/09: report due 7/15/09

Transition reports are submitted to Vivian Leon, 3006 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-3006.

Questions regarding the use of state funds to transition individuals from the developmental centers can be addressed by your LME Team Liaison or by Ms. Leon at vivian.leon@ncmail.net or 919-855-4700.

LW/ML/vl

attachment

cc: Secretary Dempsey Benton
Dan Stewart
Executive Leadership Team
Management Leadership Team
Developmental Center Directors
Yvonne Copeland
Patrice Roesler
MH Commission Chair

The Coalition Chair
SCFAC Chair
Sharnese Ransome
Andrea Poole
Shawn Parker
Kaye Holder
Tom Lawrence



Quarterly Status Report on the Use of State Funding To Transition Individuals from the Developmental Centers to the Community (Due dates: 1/15/09, 4/15/09, 7/15/09)

LME: _____ Date of Submission: _____

Person Completing Form: _____ Contact Number: _____

Instructions: Provide the required information as it pertains to the use of state funding to transition individuals from the developmental centers to the community. If no funding has been utilized for the reporting period, indicate "no funding utilized" in the comment section, and include an explanation. Submit reports electronically to Vivian Leon, DMH/DD/SAS State Operated Services at vivian.leon@ncmail.net. For questions, contact Ms. Leon at 919-855-4700.

| Individual's Initials | Developmental Center Where Individual Currently Resides | Agency Identified to Provide Community Services | Description of Use of State DD Funds To Transition Individual from Developmental Center to Community | Projected Total Amount of State DD Funding To Be Utilized | State DD Funding Utilized To Date |
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